



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Montré D. Freeman, City Manager
J. Phillip Webster, Chief of Police

Date: September 8, 2023

Subject: Consideration - Application for 2023-2024 NCLM Insurance Pool Safety Grant.

BACKGROUND:

The North Carolina League of Municipalities announced the 2023-2024 NCLM Insurance Pool Safety Grant and will be accepting grant applications through November 30, 2023. Grant funding in this particular grant is for the promotion of safety and to reduce the likelihood of claims and/or improve the municipalities risk management efforts. This particular grant has no matching funding requirement and would therefore have no budgetary impact on the City. If awarded, the grant would be active in December 2023.

ANALYSIS:

The 2023-2024 NCLM Insurance Pool Safety Grant is for the promotion of safety and aimed at reducing the likelihood of claims and/or improving the municipality's risk management efforts. The Elizabeth City Police Department is seeking permission to submit a preliminary grant application in the amount of \$5,000, which is the maximum allotted for each award.

If awarded, the ECPD would use this funding to purchase load bearing vests to carry duty gear for patrol officers. This equipment has been proven to be more ergonomically efficient at distributing equipment weight to an officer's core and reducing the weight on an officer's hips, and in turn, reducing the chance for lower back stress-related injuries. The prescribed over vest is on the list of equipment eligible for the grant. The preliminary budget would be as follows:

- 1) Safariland External Carrier - approximately \$250.00 each. Seeking a total of 20 vests, which would be \$5,000.

Staff strongly believes in the promotion of physical health and wellness for our members and feels this grant is a great opportunity to provide a more ergonomic load bearing system for officers working in the field. This would not only be an enhancement to existing members, but could also serve as a recruitment tool/incentive in meeting present and future staffing needs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, approve the submission of a preliminary grant application for the 2023-2024 NCLM Insurance Pool Safety Grant in the amount of \$5,000 to fund external vest carriers for patrol officers.